

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration the Examiner has given the present application. Claims 9, 10 and 22-37 are currently pending in the present application. In response to the July 14, 2004 Office action, Applicant has canceled claim 10, added new claims 38 and 39 and amended claims 9, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 34, with claims 25 and 30 now being in independent format. Reconsideration of the application in its current form is hereby requested.

In the Office action, the Examiner included a copy of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 1, 2004, with the references checked to show that the references were considered. The Examiner, however, did not return a copy of Applicant's Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 8, 2004. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner to consider the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and to return a copy of the same to Applicant, showing that the reference was considered. A copy of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, the reference cited therein and the returned postcard are enclosed herewith.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because there is no antecedent basis for the phrase "the length". In response, Applicant has amended claim 24 to recite "a length". Applicant submits that amended claim 24 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 22-24, 32, 322 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,162,428 to Elms in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,323,823 to Boggavarapu. The Examiner, however, stated that claims 10, 25 and 30, inter alia, would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with this statement, Applicant has amended claim 9 to include the limitations of claim 10 (which depended from claim 9), but has revised the limitations of claim 10 to specify that the first and second lengths pertain to the first leg. Also in accordance with the Examiner's statement, Applicant has amended claim 25 to include the limitations of its base claim (claim 9) and all intervening claims (claim 22); and has amended claim 30 to include the limitations of its base claim (claim 9) and all intervening claims (claim 22). Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 9, 25 and 30 are allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 22-24, 26-29 and 31-39 are also patentable since they depend from independent claims 9, 25, or 30.

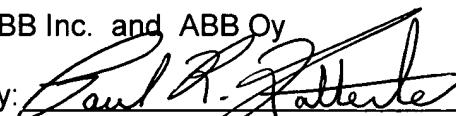
Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 050877.

Respectfully submitted,

ABB Inc. and ABB Oy

By:


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